

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6867

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, UG, KE

SUBJECT: UGANDAN-KENYAN RELATIONS

THE FOLLOWING IS A MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN
PASSED TO US BY THE FONOFF FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE
DEPARTMENT:

BEGIN TEXT:

I. SPECULATIONS ABOUT AMIN'S MOTIVES FOR DISCUSSING
EARLIER BORDER CHANGES BETWEEN UGANDA AND KENYA
CONTINUE. AFTER TALKS WITH SEVERAL COLLEAGUES THE
FOLLOWING SEEMS CONCEIVABLE TO ME:

(1) IN THE EVENT THAT OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
RAISE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AT A LATER DATE, AMIN WANTED
TO HAVE UGANDAN CLAIMS ON RECORD. SOME INTERPLAY WITH
SOMALIA ON THIS ISSUE WOULD SEEM CONCEIVABLE.

(2) AMIN WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT HE WANTS
TO OBTAIN, IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE AND EVEN AT THE RISK
OF ARMED CONFLICT, UNDISTURBED ACCESS TO THE SEA.

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(3) AMIN INFLATED EARLIER TERRITORIAL CESSIONS

TO ENABLE HIM TO REACT WITH COUNTER-CLAIMS TO BRITISH
COMPENSATION DEMANDS IN CONNECTION WITH
THE EXPULSION OF ASIANS.

(4) AMIN ACTED IN INTERPLAY WITH KENYAN
DOMESTIC OPPOSITION, WHICH IS WHY THE NAME OF VICE
PRESIDENT MOI IS MENTIONED.

II. NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE MADE HERE OF THE
FORCEFUL ANTI-AMIN DEMONSTRATIONS IN KENYA. EVEN
KENYATTA'S MODERATE STATEMENT WAS KEPT SECRET. AMIN
MERELY REPEATED ON FEB. 20 THAT HE HAD NO TERRITORIAL
CLAIMS AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES "BECAUSE HE BELIEVES
IN PEACE AND NOT WAR." HE SAID HE RESPECTED THE
BORDERS THAT HAD BEEN DEFINED BY THE FORMER COLONIAL
POWERS AND CONFIRMED BY THE OAU CHARTER. HOWEVER,
THIS WOULD NOT PREVENT HIM FROM EXPLAINING TO HIS
POPULATION THE HISTORY OF UGANDA'S BORDERS.

III. I HAVE HEARD FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER
THAT A BATTALION OF BRITISH INFANTRY HAS BEEN
STATIONED IN WEST KENYA SINCE CHRISTMAS IN CONNECTION
WITH REGULAR MANEUVER EXCHANGES. ALTHOUGH THIS
EXERCISE WOULD COME TO A CLOSE NEXT WEEK,
THE POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED THAT THE
POSITIONING OF THESE 1 TROOPS IS CONNECTED
WITH AMIN'S STATEMENTS.

IV. IT WAS LEARNED HERE THAT PRESIDENT AMIN WILL
PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE OAU MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE THAT BEGAN IN ADDIS ABABA ON FEB. 23 IN
ORDER TO COMMENT PERSONALLY UPON HIS STATEMENTS ON
HISTORIC BORDER CHANGES IN EAST AFRICA. ELLERKMANN
END TEXT.
HILLENBRAND

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